To: Pellegrini, Janet[pellegrini.janet@epa.gov]
From: Hess, Catherine
Sent: Wed 4/6/2016 7:48:29 PM
Subject: RE: Seven Hills update/question

Still haven't seen or heard anything locally yet.

From: Pellegrini, Janet [mailto:pellegrini.janet@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2016 3:09 PM
To: Hess, Catherine
Subject: FW: Seven Hills update/question

Hi Catherine,

Just checking in on this site, has this site public noticed a draft NPDES permit, if so when?

Janet Pellegrini, Environmental Scientist

USEPA Region 5, Water Division, NPDES Branch

77 West Jackson Blvd. WN-16J

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Phone: 312-886-4298

From: Schaller, Andrea
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2016 11:33 AM
To: Pellegrini, Janet <pellegrini.janet@epa.gov>
Cc: Weaver, Kerryann <weaver.kerryann@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Seven Hills update/question

Janet

Did you have any thoughts or comments? I double checked the application and it states the United Minerals has applied for their NPDES permit. Can you double check?

The IDNR SMRCA permit number is S-00357

Thanks

Andrea

From: Schaller, Andrea
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 3:50 PM
To: Pellegrini, Janet <pellegrini.janet@epa.gov>
Cc: Weaver, Kerryann <weaver.kerryann@epa.gov>
Subject: Seven Hills update/question

Janet,

I cut and past the NPDES section from the revised Seven Hills application that we just got. I was wondering if there was any update on the IN 402. The PN for the mine should be issued any day now.

From the application:

All surface disturbances for the Seven Hills Mine permit will be minimized to the maximum extent

possible to conduct coal extraction through surface mining methods. For any

discharges, United Minerals

Company LLC will follow requirements established by Section 402 of the Clean Water Act through the

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting process. All releases of water

through discrete conveyances from a coal mining operation must be permitted, monitored, and reported

under the NPDES program. Prior to initiating surface excavations, appropriate sedimentation basin and

upstream collection channels will be constructed. Sedimentation basins will be constructed down

gradient from mining and surface disturbance activities to collect surface runoff from any affected area.

The sedimentation basins will have a minimum 10-hour detention time. Spillways will be designed and

protected to minimize soil erosion by utilizing riprap, erosion control blankets or quickly germinating

vegetation or combinations of these methods. Releases from sedimentation basins will be sampled,

reported, and subject to NPDES effluent discharge limits.

Within the Highland-Pigeon watershed, there are several known and regulated point sources of pollution.

Point source dischargers must apply for and obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

(NPDES) permit from the State of Indiana. The primary pollutants being released through a pipe, ditch,

or other well defined points can be oxygen demanding wastes, nutrients, sediment, and possible toxic

materials. The following table lists the number and type of NPDES permits within or near the affected

watersheds as of January 9, 2012. Major dischargers are facilities that discharge over one million gallons

per day or receive wastewater from a population greater than 10,000. There are no major dischargers

within the smaller 12-digit watershed of the permit area.

Active NPDES Permits[21]

Watershed Total NPDES Permits Major Discharge Permits

Clear Branch-Pigeon Creek 2 0

Highland-Pigeon (Indiana only) 61 9

Within the smaller 12-digit watershed of the permit area, as well as the Highland-Pigeon watershed, there

may be failing septic systems or septic systems that have been connected into field drainage tiles. In this

rural area it is likely that many homes use septic systems for wastewater treatment. Failing septic systems

are known sources of *E. coli* impairments in water bodies. Due to forested areas being concentrated along

the stream corridors, wildlife can also cause impairments in water bodies from the *E. coli* in their wastes.

Many animals such as deer, geese, ducks, raccoons, and turkeys spend time in or around water bodies

contributing to their potential impairment. There are also smaller livestock operations within these

watersheds that are not regulated under the confined animal feeding operation regulations, but could have

an impact on the water quality.

Agricultural activities contribute much of the non-point pollution within the affected watersheds. Land

clearing and conventional tilling of the land makes soil susceptible to erosion. Soil amendments such as

pesticides and fertilizers can also be washed from the fields. Conservation tillage along with vegetated

buffer strips along the streams and ditches would greatly minimize sediment and nutrient loads into the

streams. In this rural permit area, runoff from urban and residential land use is not a large source of

pollution for the immediate receiving waters. Runoff from impervious features such as roofs and

roadways increases discharge to the receiving streams rather than allowing the rainfall event to soak into

the ground. This increased discharge can accelerate stream bank erosion and sediment transport.

These discharges occur from sediment basins which are located as close to the disturbance area as

practicable and are monitored for pH, suspended solids, settleable solids and iron, thereby preserving

downstream habitats. All disturbed areas would drain to a sedimentation pond to ensure acceptable

quality of any drainage from the site. Prior to initiating surface excavations, appropriate sedimentation

ponds and upstream collection channels will be constructed. Sedimentation pond spillways will be

protected to minimize soil erosion by utilizing riprap, erosion control blankets or quickly germinating

vegetation or combinations of these methods. Upon completion of construction of the sedimentation

ponds, affected areas would be graded to drain to the sediment ponds. All discharges from the

sedimentation ponds would be required to meet the numerical effluent limits for suspended solids, per the

NPDES permit. Reclamation practices at coal mines such as the use of sediment basins, terraces and

WASCOBS have proven successful in reducing erosion and sediment loss. Best management

engineering practices for erosion and sediment control will be implemented to prevent negative impacts to

the waters outside of the area planned for mining. Riparian buffers will be reestablished adjacent to the

stream mitigation and conservation tillage practices will be recommended to tenant farmers.

Any effects of the ***Seven Hills Project*** on surface water quality should be temporary and minimal.

Effluent from NPDES discharge points is proposed to meet all applicable state and Federal standards and

is compatible with that in the receiving stream. Adherence to these limits will avoid adverse impacts

from the proposed operations to the surface water quality of the receiving stream.

Andrea Schaller

Life Scientist/Enforcement Officer

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